

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when big business controls the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and our democracy suffers.

Earlier this year, Sinclair Broadcasting Group refused to let their ABC affiliates broadcast Ted Koppel's Nightline when he read the names of the dead servicemen because they declared it a political statement on Nightline's part and not a news program. Yet now they are calling this anti-Kerry documentary news programming and are saying that its broadcast is not politically motivated. Their reasoning seems contradictory.

When I complained to my local affiliate about the upcoming broadcast, they answered me with a cookie cutter response that I had already read on the Sinclair Broadcasting Group's website. I am left wondering who exactly I should hold accountable and where exactly they are located.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Thank you.